

to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore in the State Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we said a final goodbye to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a woman of great resolve and patience, who helped to change the world. Today we honor a woman who stands on her shoulders. Working tirelessly to change the world in her own right, Ms. Greene is the hope and dream of countless men and women of African descent who silently contributed to the pages of history. As a result of the efforts of the likes of Mrs. King and Rosa Parks, Aurelia's contributions to this nation have not gone unnoticed.

For her unyielding spirit, and willingness to serve others, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Ms. Aurelia Greene and in honoring the great women upon whose shoulders she stands.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PAULA J.  
MARTIN

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month, dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Ms. Paula J. Martin, a woman who has worked vigorously to ensure the less fortunate of her community have the necessary skills to succeed in life.

Paula serves as the Executive Director of the Harlem Center for Education (HCE), a community based non-profit organization located in East Harlem, New York. Among its programs, HCE counts two federal TRIO Talent Search projects and one Educational Opportunity Center Project. Paula has been involved in TRIO programs for over 32 years.

During the 20 years she has served as Executive Director of HCE, the organization has grown from an operational budget of \$137,000 to one that is currently over \$1,000,000. Her unique ability to secure timely grants has allowed the Harlem Center for Education to grow and reach more deserving young people and adults.

Like most of the students with whom she works, Paula is a first generation college student. A graduate of Hunter College High School, she went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a master's degree in developmental psychology from Columbia University. This achievement alone is worthy of praise; but Paula did not stop there. She decided to dedicate her entire professional career to empowering individuals who shared her life struggles, thus helping to ensure that the cycle of poverty is broken.

Booker T. Washington once said: "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome." Indeed, Paula has overcome great obstacles to achieve the position that she now holds and would surely be considered a great success by Washington's standards. However, what impresses me the most about this incredible woman is that she was not satisfied with achieving success for herself. Like Washington, she has worked tirelessly to pull others up from the depths of despair, providing them with opportunities to find success in their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, this country owes much of its greatness to the countless men and women of color who silently contributed to the pages of history. Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting them for their efforts and in paying tribute to the great leaders who stand upon their shoulders, such as Ms. Paula J. Martin.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DENNIS TERRY

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Mr. Dennis Terry, an individual who has worked throughout his life to fortify the bonds that unite the people of the Bronx in order to help them find success.

Born in North Carolina, Dennis has been a Bronx resident since 1969. He is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, DC. Dennis is a retired manager from Lilco (now known as Keyspan) and is currently engaged in part-time consulting.

The extensive involvement of Dennis in the community and civic life of his borough and city is reflected in his numerous organizational affiliations. These affiliations include: Mid-Bronx Senior Citizen's Council (chairperson); Concourse Day Care Center (member); and HAC Family Services (member). Dennis' past affiliations include: Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center (former chairperson); The Bronx Health Link (former chairperson); SOBRO (member, Executive Committee); The New York Urban League (member and former chairman of the Bronx Advisory Board); Community Planning Board 4 (former chairman); and the Mayor's Community Planning Board 4 Task Force.

Throughout his lifetime of community involvement, Dennis has sought to construct collaborative platforms and organizational networks that maximize the strength of the Bronx's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and religious diversity. Dennis' efforts have enabled the institutions that he has been affiliated with, and in many cases led, to define, develop, and deliver much needed services. He has focused his public service in the areas of senior and child care, healthcare, housing, employment, and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King once stated that "All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality." This is a statement that Dennis understands all too well. The Bronx is a melting pot of ethnic and religious groups, none of which can survive without the help of another. Fortunately, the Bronx is home to individuals like Dennis Terry, a man of vision and understanding who has helped tear down the walls that so often divide us. He has forced us to see the great potential we can unleash when we work together.

He stands on the shoulders of giants, yet he himself has become a giant, espousing a philosophy of tolerance and understanding in order to uplift his fellow citizens. For his selfless attitude and unyielding spirit, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Dennis Terry and the giants upon whose shoulders he stands.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GLORIA DENARD

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Ms. Gloria Denard, an accomplished musician who has helped to improve the quality of life for the people of her community.

Born into a family of musicians and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, Gloria was destined to be a great musician herself. Under the tutelage of her mother, she began her musical training at the tender age of three. Later in life, she studied at Julliard where she concentrated on classical music and majored in voice with a piano minor.

After Julliard, Gloria married and moved to East Harlem. She performed nationally and internationally, including stints in Italy, Bermuda, Greenland and Canada.

Although she enjoyed great success as a musician, Gloria was consumed by the desire to improve the quality of life of the people in her community. To that end, she established Manna House Workshops to serve the social and cultural needs of her talented neighbors. Gloria, who by this time had two children, worked without salary and maintained a staff of six teachers. In 1970 she decided to purchase a five story building and establish the current home of Manna House Workshops. After 38 years of service, Manna House Workshops continues to serve as a bright beacon of hope in its community, providing training in music and dance to all who enter their doors.

In 1980, Gloria conceived Music for Entertainment Education and Enlightenment (MEEE), a jazz concert series featuring emerging and professional artists presented in the Manna Mini Theatre. In addition, she has maintained her own vocal career and has released two CDs including "Come Feel the Things You Cannot Touch" and "Two for Jazz". An additional CD will be released in March of this year. She also produces and hosts a cable show every month entitled "The Best Kept Secret" on the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to discuss the contributions of African Americans to the history of the world and not mention the great influence they have had upon music. Often great beauty comes from great pain and suffering. It was this sacred art that helped so many find light in times of darkness and peace in times of stifling oppression. From gospel to blues to jazz, and most recently, hip hop, African Americans have not only provided the world with new forms of entertainment, but have found a way to provide insight into their struggles and aspirations. A student of this art, Gloria teaches music to the next generation, hoping to instill in them a sense of self confidence and pride so that they may one day share their gifts with the world.

For her beautiful voice and spirit, and her willingness to help others find their own voice, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Ms. Gloria Denard, and the countless African Americans who came before her and enabled her to find her own voice.